

BIOPSY NEEDLE DEVICE

5 CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

10 This patent application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Utility Patent Application Serial No. 10/739,868, filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on 12/18/2003 by Snow et al., which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Utility Patent Application Serial No. Serial No. 10/409,819, filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on April 8, 2003 by Ferguson et al., which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Utility Application Serial No. 10/322,288, filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on December 17, 2002 by Ferguson et al., which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent application Serial No. 60/424,655, filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on November 7, 2002 by Bagley et al., and ^{a continuation-in-part of} U.S. Utility Patent Application Serial No. 10/202,201, filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on July 23, 2002 by Ferguson et al., which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Utility Patent Application Serial No. 09/809,357, filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on March 15, 2001 by Ferguson et al., the entire contents of each of these disclosures being hereby incorporated by reference herein.

BACKGROUND

20 1. Technical Field

The present disclosure generally relates to safety shields for medical needles, and more particularly, to safety shields that protect a needle point of a medical needle for tissue biopsy.

2. Description of the Related Art

25 Problems associated with inadvertent needle sticks are well known in the art of blood sampling, percutaneous medication injection and other medical procedures involving use of medical needles. Significant attention has been focused on needle stick problems due to the contemporary sensitivity of exposure to AIDS, Hepatitis and other serious blood-borne pathogen exposures.